

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 36, 37, 38, 42, 48, 52 and 53 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-35 (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

Claims 39-41 (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence SEQ ID NO:1 and that encodes v-IL-6.

44. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid as described in claim 43, consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

45. (original) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and obtained by recombinant expression of a DNA as described in claim 43 in an isolated cell.

46. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule hybridizing under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid identical to SEQ ID NO:1 encoding functional v-IL-6.

47. (original) A test kit for the detection of v-IL-6 DNA or RNA, comprising a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 as claimed in claim 43.

48. (canceled)

49. (original) A composition comprising as an active ingredient the nucleic acid as claimed in claim 43 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 50-51 (canceled)

52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)